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124 Let us remark in passing that among the individuals questioned a large number, in spite of their high intellectual level, experienced some difficulty in expressing their point of view. Doubtless it was a matter of a defense reaction; but in many cases this hesitation is also due to the fact that these persons had never ascribed much importance to the question. These two interpretations, whatever they may be worth, are both significant with regard to race relations in Bahia.

The occasions when the spontaneity of the informants was tempered by mistrust were rare. Only two individuals evaded the interview: a Black belonging to a liberal profession, who showed great reserve, and a woman, a mulattress of light complexion, occupying an administrative post, who appeared irritated by the nature of the investigation, the interest of which she did not see.

For an accurate understanding of the facts, it is useful to recall that the interviews took place, in general, without a previous appointment. Several times, however, I notified our informants that I was engaged in an investigation of race relations and wished to know their opinion. Several interviews were obtained in the course of chance encounters and had the character of a simple conversation. In certain cases they were resumed for the requirements of this study, with the consent of the informants. Certain individuals acted as though it were /7/ difficult for them to enter upon "such a delicate matter"; nevertheless, on the whole, they proved as communicative as one could wish. The intentions of the investigators were generally well understood by the informants. Certain ones among them even seemed finally to have found the occasion, so often desired, to express their grievances or their personal views on their particular case as well as on the problem in general. The method of the interview, as far as one could judge, seemed to be very effective. It may be hoped that its use on a broader scale will furnish new elucidations on the same subject.

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126 As for the method of recording the interviews, the most important among them were transcribed by means of rapid notes taken during the conversation. On rare occasions the interview was transcribed in a more complete fashion. The reports were written up, with some exceptions, in the first hours following the meeting.